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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 7 April 1952

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SUBJECT: Meeting on OSI Proposal for Russian Scientific Literature 4 April 1952

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1. An inconclusive discussion was held on certain aspects of the OSI proposal, without considering the paper on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis. The OSI emphasis was upon obtaining OO concurrence in the "principles" outlined in the paper, and particularly in the plan for external exploitation of overt foreign language publications in the various scientific fields. [redacted] agreed to the validity of the concept of external exploitation, but pointed out that:

a. scientific publications should not be treated as a distinct and separate category of foreign publications, and that over-all planning (for an NSCID or for external exploitation) should be broad and flexible enough to include economic, political and other foreign publications.

b. that the different interpretations of the term "exploitation" (OSI, to mean collation and evaluation, and OO to mean abstracting, extracting, etc.) were partly responsible for the OSI insistence that exploitation should be done by the research office concerned.

c. that OO was dubious of any broad plan which would cut FDD off from its current sources, especially single-copy material, or which would re-allocate FDD's responsibilities to three different offices within CIA.

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2. [redacted] discussed the OO objection that wide and open use of USSR scientific material by U.S. science and industry might lead the Soviets to cut their publications export list even further, and gave examples of OIT preclusive action which had not lead the Soviets to take counter-measures. OO still demurred on this point.

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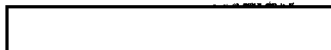
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3. The possibility of getting NSC approval of a broad policy on CIA "coordination of exploitation of foreign publications for intelligence purposes," without currently going into the problems of allocation of CIA functions internally was raised by [redacted] but OSI objected strongly, and questioned whether FDD could carry out the NSCID responsibilities if the latter were approved. [redacted] insisted that the provisions of the staff study (indexing, etc., to OCD Library, exploitation to OSI and translating presumably but not explicitly—to FDD) should be settled first. [redacted] repeated frequently the statement that there would be a lot of planning to be done on [redacted] and on the exploitation of material not openly available (and therefore not exploited by the National Science Foundation) and that FDD should operate in these fields.

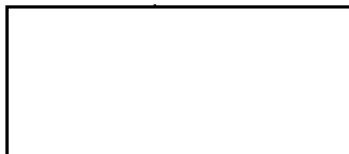
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4. It was agreed by OSI that the NSCID should not be confined to scientific or to "Russian literature" and by OO that we had no objection to the principle of external exploitation of overt material, and OSI was to proceed to work on a "paper" for general inter-office internal CIA consideration. The idea of an Executive Order was more or less dropped by OSI, and they felt that RDB, AEC, etc. were "all ready to go in" on the National Science Foundation idea, and that action at the Presidential level would not be required.



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*copy sent Mr. Bagwell  
on 2 apr 52*

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